Establishment of a national gas grid

756. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's action plan to address serious regional imbalance in natural gas sector in States like West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa in eastern region which are totally gas-starved.;

(b) whether a national gas grid is being planned on the lines of National Power Grid;

(c) if so, whether such gas grid is being planned to be developed through GAIL like Power Grid Corporation in Power Sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) There is no source of natural gas supply in States like West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa at present. However, the requisite infrastructure will develop once sources of supply from within or outside the States are firmed up.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Government have no plan at present for setting up a National Gas Grid on the lines of the National Power Grid. However, GAIL propose to take up various pipeline projects linking different sources of gas to demand centres with natural gas pipelines, in a phased manner. As per the preliminary estimates of GAIL, Phase-I of their gas grid involves approximately 7,900 Kms. of pipeline and an expenditure of Rs. 20,000 crore.

Borrowings of oil PSUs

757. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total outstanding borrowings of oil PSUs as on March 31, 2004; and

(b) what is the amount of interest being paid on these borrowings?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The total outstanding borrowings of oil PSUs as on 31st March, 2004 was Rs. 31,565.34 crore.

(b) The interest paid on borrowings was Rs. 1,689.32 crore during the year, 2003-04.

LPG godowns in residential areas

758. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LPG godowns have come up in residential colonies like West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi recently;

(b) whether several accidents occurred in the past on account of blast in godowns causing great damage in different residential colonies; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to shift such godowns to open areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No LPG godowns are located in West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi. Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has allotted sites for development of 3 LPG godowns for the distributors of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in Sub-zone H-4, Pitampura, Delhi. These godowns will be commissioned by IOCL after taking approval of statutory and local authorities and in conformity with the rules laid down by the Department of Explosives.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported any accident in the past on account of blast in LPG godowns causing damage to residential colonies in Delhi.

Closure of Adulteration Prevention Cell

†759. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have closed down the Petrol-Diesel Adulteration Prevention Cell;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration to check adulteration in petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.